CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A methodology for tracking objects comprising:

    receiving a multiplicity of objects to be tracked at a known location, each of said multiplicity of objects having at least one imagable identifier affixed thereto;

    imaging said multiplicity of objects together at said known location to provide an at least partial image of said multiplicity of objects;

    employing said at least partial image to determine an identification code for at least a plurality of said multiplicity of objects; and

    associating each identification code with a known location code.

2. The methodology as in claim 1 further comprising communicating said at least partial image and its associated identification and location codes to a remote location.

3. The methodology as in claim 1 and also comprising storing said at least partial image and its associated identification and location codes.

4. The methodology as in claim 1 wherein said imaging is color imaging.

5. The methodology as in claim 1 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-color identifier.

6. The methodology as in claim 1 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-segment, multi-color identifier.

7. The methodology as in claim 6 wherein said identifier has an inherent orientation.

8. The methodology as in claim 1 wherein said imaging comprises sequentially imaging different pluralities of objects passing a given imaging location.

9. The methodology as in claim 1 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a plurality of imagable identifiers arranged in at least predetermined propinquity to each other.

10. The methodology as in claim 1 wherein said employing comprises extracting said identification code from said at least partial image.

11. The methodology as in claim 1 wherein said identifier has an inherent orientation.

12. An object tracking system comprising:

an imager to image together at a known location a multiplicity of objects to be tracked each one of said objects having at least one imagable identifier affixed thereto and to provide an at least partial image of said multiplicity of said objects, said image including at least each of said at least one imagable identifiers;

a processor employing said at least partial image to determine an identification code for a plurality of said multiplicity of objects and to associate each identification code with a known location code.

13. The system as in claim 12 further comprising a communication unit to communicate said at least partial image and its associated identification and location codes to a remote location.

14. The system as in claim 12 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-color identifier.

15. The system as in claim 12 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-segment, multi-color identifier.

16. The system as in claim 15 wherein said multi-segment, multi color identifier has an inherent orientation.

17. The system as in claim 12 and also comprising a storage unit to store said at least partial image and its associated identification and location codes.

18. The system as in claim 12 and wherein said imager is a color imager.

19. The system as in claim 12 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a plurality of imagable identifiers arranged in at least predetermined propinquity to each other.

20. The system as in claim 12 wherein said identifier has an inherent orientation.

21. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a methodology for tracking a multiplicity of objects at a known location, each of which has at least one imagable identifier affixed thereto, comprising:

   imaging together at said known location said multiplicity of objects to provide an at least partial image of said multiplicity of objects, said image including said imagable identifier on each of said multiplicity of said objects;

   employing said at least partial image to determine an identification code for at least a plurality of said multiplicity of objects; and

   associating each identification code with a known location code.

22. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 further comprising communicating said at least partial image and its associated identification and location codes to a remote location.

23. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-color identifier.

24. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-segment, multi-color identifier.

25. The computer-readable medium as in claim 24 wherein said multi-segment, multi-color identifier has an inherent orientation.

26. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 wherein said imaging comprises sequentially imaging a plurality of said objects passing a given imaging location.

27. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a plurality of imagable identifiers arranged in at least predetermined propinquity to each other.

28. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 and also comprising storing said at least partial image and its associated identification and location codes.

29. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 and wherein said imaging is color imaging.

30. The computer-readable medium as in claim 21 wherein said identifier has an inherent orientation.

31. A methodology for tracking objects comprising:

receiving a first multiplicity of objects to be tracked at a first known location, each of said first multiplicity of objects having at least one imagable identifier affixed thereto;

imaging said first multiplicity of objects together at said first known location to provide a first at least partial image of said first multiplicity of objects;

employing said first at least partial image to determine a first set of identification codes one for at least a plurality of said first multiplicity of objects;

associating each of said identification codes of said first set of identification codes with a first known location code;

receiving a second multiplicity of objects to be tracked at a second known location, each of said second multiplicity of objects having at least one imagable identifier affixed thereto;

imaging said second multiplicity of objects together at said second known location to provide a second at least partial image of said second multiplicity of objects;

employing said second at least partial image to determine a second set of identification codes one for at least a plurality of said second multiplicity of objects; and;

associating each of said identification codes of said second set of identification codes with a second known location code.

32. The methodology as in claim 31 wherein said imaging of said first multiplicity of objects and said imaging of said second multiplicity of objects occur at different times.

33. The methodology as in claim 31 wherein an object in said first multiplicity of objects is also in said second multiplicity of objects and said associated identification and location codes with respect to said object are first stored and then updated.

34. The methodology as in claim 31 further comprising communicating at least one of said first or second at least partial image and its associated said identification and location codes to a remote location.

35. The methodology as in claim 31 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-color identifier.

36. The methodology as in claim 31 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a multi-segment, multi-color identifier.

37. The methodology as in claim 31 wherein said multi-segment, multi-color identifier has an inherent orientation.

38. The methodology as in claim 31 wherein said first and second imaging comprises sequentially imaging a plurality of said objects passing a given imaging location.

39. The methodology as in claim 31 wherein said at least one imagable identifier comprises a plurality of imagable identifiers arranged in at least predetermined propinquity to each other.

40. The methodology as in claim 31 and wherein said imaging is color imaging.